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Title:

Comments: RE: The Custer Gallatin Forest Service Plan Revision #50185

Issues of Objection:

1. Science cited to support plan authored by agency employees and therefore subject to regulatory bias &/or capture;
2. Current, best climate peer-reviewed science research not used;
3. Deforestation is a driver of climate change, early snow runoff, erosion, and has multiple adverse impacts on wildlife habitat (e.g. FS study reports an ~ 47% + decline in lynx habitat) which may be irreversible if forests cannot return to logged areas due to declining snowpacks and climate change;
4. The Forest Service has the mission, legal and moral duty to consider ALL negative impacts on local water supply that would result from logging and the secondary drought conditions that would increase loss of snowpack, early runoff, and risk of wildfire. With average temps increasing and without tree shade, ground temperatures would increase threatening the health and sustainability of native understory.

All of the above is observable to those living and growing vegetation in MT, but scientific research in files below included to support all of the above.

How to improve plan: Consider the whole:

1. Water use by humans: In Gallatin County the demands for water are outpacing supplies. Gallatin County should require grey water systems in all new building and legalize them for older homes so that property owners could re-use water for trees around their home, cut use of drinking water for lawns, & "reforest" housing areas that would shade lawns and homes reducing need for air conditioning;
2. Public land use by humans: The human use of public lands, especially 10 miles from any trailhead, has increased exponentially with people moving here BECAUSE we still have some wild places. Eliminating wild places close to town is NOT what the public wants. Most have NO IDEA what this plan started in 1987 involves.
3. Humans are the #1 cause of wild fires. The FS should limit motorized use to logging roads and end it on narrow foot paths.

New concerns since formal plan announced-besides above:

Cathy Whitlock's 2017 Montana specific climate research is new and indicates that logging is more likely than not to exacerbate wildfires, drought and other threats to our water supply. (see File 1 below)

Climate change is the #1 threat to our future. Deforestation aggravates climate change. Forest management must align itself with current valid climate science.